

Message Text

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R 010925Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7328

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 3839

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ID AS

SUBJ: CAIRNS VISIT TO INDONESIA

1. AUSTRALIAN POLCOUNS TAYLOR BRIEFED POLCOUNS APRIL 1 ON MARCH 25-27 VISIT TO INDONESIA OF DEPUTY PM CAIRNS. VISIT, WHICH HAD NO SPECIAL PURPOSE BESIDES CAIRNS' DESIRE TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH INDONESIA, INCLUDED MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO (WHO HAD TO BE PERSUADED TO MEET WITH CAIRNS), FONMIN MALIK, MINING MINISTER SADLI AND FINANCE MINISTER WARDHANA, ALL ON MARCH 26. CAIRNS' ASSISTANT DOING REPORTS ON LATTER TWO MEETINGS WHICH HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED BY EMBASSY.

2. IN MEETING WITH SUHARTO AND MALIK FOUR MAJOR TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED:

A. AUSTRALIAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: CAIRNS PROMISED THAT NEXT THREE YEAR TRANCHE OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE (TO BEGIN IN MID 1975) WILL BE AS MUCH AS PREVIOUS TRANCHE "IN REAL TERMS"...IE, TAKING INFLATION INTO CONSIDERATION. TAYLOR COMMENTED THAT SINCE THERE HAS BEEN NO GOA DECISION ON MATTER, EMBASSY WAS ASTONISHED THAT CAIRNS, WHO IS TREASURER, WOULD HAVE GONE SO FAR.

B. POLITICAL PRISONERS: SUHARTO AND MALIK BOTH RAISED SUBJECT, WITH FORMER GIVING WELL PRESENTED ONE HOUR
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DISCOURSE ON BACKGROUND OF COMMUNIST PROBLEM (MAINLY

RELATED TO 1965 PRISONERS) AND DIFFICULTY OF RE-INTEGRATING PRISONERS INTO SOCIETY, AND MAKING POINT THAT GOI PLANNING ADDITIONAL RELEASES. CAIRNS SAID HE "UNDERSTOOD" INDONESIAN POSITION, AND THAT HE HAD NOT COME TO JAKARTA TO RAISE SUBJECT.

C. TIMOR: SUBJECT NOT DISCUSSED WITH SUHARTO. MALIK RAISED IT, ASKING THAT AUSTRALIANS NOT INCREASE TENSIONS THERE. CAIRNS MADE NO PRESENTATION OR SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT. LATER MALIK TOLD PRESS HE HAD ASKED CAIRNS THAT AUSTRALIA NOT BECOME "AUCTIONEER" (TUKANG LELANG) FOR TIMOR. ASKED ABOUT THIS AT AIRPORT, CAIRNS LOOKED PUZZLED AND REPLIED HE HAD HEARD NO SUCH REMARK.

D. ADB SOFT LOANS: CAIRNS SAID GOA WILL SUPPORT INDONESIAN REQUESTS FOR SOFT LOANS FROM ADB.

3. IN SUMMING UP, TAYLOR SAID VISIT HAD GONE BETTER THAN ANYONE EXPECTED. AT DINNER IN HIS HONOR CAIRNS TOLD INDONESIAN THAT NOW THEY COULD COUNT AS FRIENDS IN AUSTRALIA DEPUTY PM AS WELL AS PM, WHICH, IN EMBASSY'S VIEW, REPRESENTED MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT OF VISIT. NEWSOM

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